

Minnesota Safe Harbor

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Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Eligibility for Safe Harbor Services for Youth Ages 24 and younger



Anything of value (e.g., money, drugs, food, shelter, rent, or higher status in a gang or group)

- OR -

a <u>promise</u> of anything of value is given to a person by any means in exchange for any type of sexual activity.

A third party may or may not be involved.

Who are the traffickers?



Range from large scale national and international crime networks to small scale individuals recruiting individuals

Traffickers, brothel owners, salon owners, landlords

Neighbors, friends, "boyfriends", "girlfriends", family members

Mapping the Demand: Sex Buyers in the State of Minnesota 2017

- Sex buyers are *predominantly* **middle-aged, white, married men** from across the state of Minnesota.
- Many buyers seek young adult victims, with some willing to buy sex from a minor. Some sex buyers specifically seek out minors
- Most sex buyers travel during the workday between 30-60 miles to buy sex. Some will travel farther to purchase minors or individuals in specialty market-segments.
- Buyers also purchase sex during business trips, bachelor parties, and hunting and fishing trips.

Martin, et al, Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC), $\mbox{\bf U}$ of $\mbox{\bf M}$

Who are the victims?

Victims can be any age, gender, race or ethnicity

People may be *more* at risk to be trafficked or exploited if they...

- Have experienced childhood trauma, poly-victimization
- Have physical and/or cognitive disabilities
- Have mental health issues and/or chemical dependency
- Are persons of color
- Are homeless
- Are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, gender non-conforming
- Have an immigration status
- Are in trouble with the law
- Are runaways
- Experience poverty

CORE NEED Unmet FALSE PROMISE TRAFFICKING VULNERABILITY Unprotected Source: Deborah's Gate | www.deborahsgate.ca

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Potential Signs of Exploitation or Trafficking

- Person has an abrupt change in attire, behavior, or relationships
- The presence of an older "boyfriend" or "girlfriend"
- Travel with an older male/female who is not a guardian
- Sudden presence of expensive material possessions
- Youth lacks control over his/her schedule, money, and/or proof of identification
- \bullet Signs of physical trauma, including bruises, cuts, burns, and/or
- Lying about age, where they've been, who they've been with, etc.

What is a Trauma-Coerced Attachment?

Powerful psychological manipulation by traffickers - Victims who believe they are in love with their trafficker are easier to manipulate and control.



Why don't victims leave?

- Actual or threatened abuse/sexual assault/violence to self, family, friends
 Making an "example" of another victim
 Threat of criminal prosecution or deportation
- Blackmail

Dependency

- Withholding money or identity documents
 Only source of housing, food, clothes
 Posing as "friend/boyfriend/concerned relative" to induce guilt and feeling indebted
 Causing or exploiting pregnancy, chemical dependency, etc.
 Isolation from support networks, service providers, others

- "I agreed to it so it's not illegal"
- "This is my choice"
 "I've done too much to go back to a normal life"
 Mind normalizes situation as defense mechanism



Safe Harbor Law

Sexually exploited youth

17 years old and under

can no longer be criminalized for engaging in prostitution but should be referred to services.

Sexually exploited and at risk youth

24 years old and under

deserve and are eligible for specialized, trauma-informed services to heal and recover.

Safe Harbor Statewide Services







Persons



- Regional Navigators and Specialized Community Services
 Specialized Housing/Shelter
 Youth Outreach Youth Outreach
- OVC Expansion Grant to include Labor Trafficking

 Youth Outreach
 Child Protection/Child
- Training & Technical Assistance
- Youth Outreach Materials
- Wilder Evaluation Report
- Safe Harbor for All
- Labor Trafficking
 Protocol Guidelines

Vulnerable Adult Protection

- Internet Crimes Against Children
 - 3 Regional Law Enforcement Task Forces
 - 1 Statewide Task Force run by the BCA: 24/7 reporting 651-793-7000

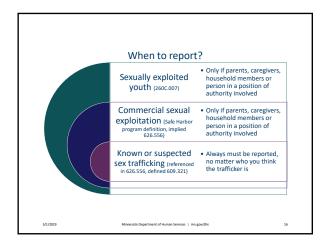
Missing and Endangered

- Training/Consultation for Law Enforcement on Sex Trafficking Investigations
- Protocol Guidelines
- Safe Harbor Protocol Team Formation Starter Kit: A Guide for New Teams
- Protocol Implementation



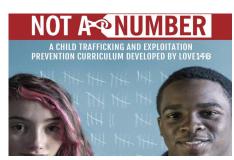
Shelter Short-term residential care with the purpose of providing youth who are victims of sexual exploitation a clean, safe place to stay, and stabilization services. Supportive Housing (congregate and independent) Longer-term housing and supportive services for youth who have experienced sexual exploitation or trafficking to attain and maintain stability and independence. Outreach Locate, identify and build relationships with vulnerable and homeless youth, in order to interrupt exploitation by working to meet immediate needs and provide resources.











https://love146.org/notanumber/



Role of Regional Navigators

Regional Experts on Exploitation & Trafficking

- Technical Assistance
- Case Consultation
- Client Referrals to Services
- Professional Training
- Community Education
- Community Engagement
- Internal Agency Response
- Multi-disciplinary Response Protocol

| | Supportive Services and Housing for Youth age 24 & Under |
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| Civil/criminal/legal advocact | Individual and group counseling & support |
| Aftercare Basic needs | Exploitation awareness & |
| Referrals to other | education |
| services/agencies | Safety planningOnline safety education |
| Ongoing case management | oninic surety education |
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| | Challenges |
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| Screening/Identification | |
| | ilability and Appropriateness |
| Mental Health Support a | ınd Availability |
| Confidentiality | |
| Building Trust | |
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| Shameless Plug for Toda | y s bessions |
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